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KENNETH S. COHN  
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RAYMOND H. RHODES  
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## More Cloak, Less Dagger Needed

There is a dark and brooding quality that overlays our Central Intelligence Agency. Its chief for eight years, Allen W. Dulles, is definitely retiring at the end of this year and he has done nothing, though he looks grandfatherly, to dispel the atmosphere.

As little is known about CIA as about our atomic installations and nuclear stockpiles. It only erupts in the news with a vengeance, as Dulles has frequently remarked, when something has gone awry, such as the Cuban fiasco, the unfortunate Nixon tour of Latin America, the rioting over a scheduled visit by Eisenhower to Japan and the unexpected upheavals in darkest Africa. It is then that the CIA comes in for hard knocks. Well, perhaps it should.

For the CIA operates on a mysterious budget that appears to be unlimited and allegedly ranges from \$1 billion annually to \$2 billion. Its employees are variously estimated to number anywhere from 20,000 to 45,000 and no one knows how many American citizens and how many nationals of other countries are on the rolls. There is no doubt but that were the files someday to be revealed, there would be disclosed enough for a two-foot shelf of thrillers of the Simplon-Oberland Express variety.

That our global spy apparatus has been faulty is unquestionable. For the past decade or so we have been greeted with multiple surprises when great stakes were being planned, such as the invasion of Egypt by England, France and Israel. We were caught off guard. There was little reason. Vast numbers of men and ships were begun to move into the invading machine got under way.

Whoever assumes the office is accepting a thankless task since the colossal events impending may dwarf anything that has gone before in global events. He surely will be subjected to criticism for under our system, no matter how dark and brooding is a governmental agency, the press not only knows who is the chief but can attack him if needs be.

Fowler Hamilton, a lawyer, is being spoken of as the replacement. He is 51 years old and has had a formidable education despite the strange absence of a Harvard degree. He has served long and well in government service and his posts have ranged from the Justice Department, to the State Department to economic groups.

As we see it, the primary function of a CIA chief in this time of our lives is not so much that of administering but rather to wield an imagination and be endowed with a sharp sense of second guessing. There are people like that who have served their country ably exercising their own talents in that murky world of espionage.

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